

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCI-06 SCEM-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 TAR-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 FPC-01

OPIC-12 XMB-07 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /197 W

----- 069951

R 072307Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2280

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2956

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRIMIN'S ENERGY STATEMENT

REF: OTTAWA 2947

1. IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF PRIMIN TRUDEAU'S ENERGY STATEMENT DESCRIBED REFTEL IS TO ELIMINATE POSSIBILITY THAT PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE (PC) OPPOSITION WOULD OVERTHROW LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WITH NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO BE DEBATED DECEMBER 10 (OTTAWA 2878). NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) LEADER LEWIS, WHO HAD THREATENED TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT IF NDP ENERGY POLICY DEMANDS NOT MET, CALLED TRUDEAU SPEECH "IMMENSE VICTORY FOR NDP" AND PROMISED TO VOTE AGAINST NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION WHATEVER THE SUBJECT.

2. PC SPOKESMAN IN COMMONS CALLED STATEMENT "BLATANT ATTEMPT TO SEDUCE THE NDP," REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO GOVERNMENT'S REVERSAL OF PRIOR DECISION TO LIFT PRICE FREEZE, AND TO COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL PETROEUM COPRORATION, BOTH OF WHICH NDP OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER  
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"BLATANT" THE ATTEMPT, NDP THOROUGHLY SEDUCED,

AT LEAST AS REGARDS NEXT MONDAY'S DEBATE.  
LEWIS HAS SOUGHT DEMONSTRATE NDP INDEPENDENCE  
FROM LIBERAL ENERGY PROGRAMS, AND TOLD PRESS HE HAD  
DECIDED TO VOTE AGAINST GOVERNMENT HAD IT NOT PRODUCED  
"THIS TYPE OF POLICY." THIS HAD MIXTURE OF FUSTIAN AND PRESSURE.  
EMBASSY AND MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVED NDP WOULD NOT WISH DEFEAT  
GOVERNMENT ON ENERGY POLICY, AT LEAST UNTIL ENERGY  
"CRISIS" BECAME MORE SERIOUS. HOWEVER, TRUDEAU'S  
STATEMENT FULFILLED PRACTICALLY ALL NDP DESIDERATA.

3. PC'S RESPONDED ANGRILY TO PRIMIN'S STATEMENT. IN  
PARTICULAR, ALBERTAN MP'S (ALL OF WHOM ARE TORY") CALLED  
NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION A NATIONAL DISASTER, AND  
"END OF FREE ENTERPRISE IN OIL INDUSTRY." PC LEADER  
STAFIELD SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT TRUDEAU'S OBVIOUS  
EFFORTS WIN NDP SUPPORT, BUT THAT STATEMENT WOULD INCREASE  
ALIENATION TOWARD OTTAWA IN WESTERN PROVINCES. PC'S  
INTEND TO GO AHEAD WITH NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION AND  
DEBATE. SHOULD ENERGY SITUATION DETERIORATE IN COMING  
MONTHS, PC'S CAN CLAIM THAT NDP MUST SHARE GOVERNMENT  
RESPONSIBILITY. PC SOURCES TELL EMBASSY THEY BELIEVE  
NDP SUPPORT IN CANADA IS DISSIPATING, AND THAT PC COULD  
WITH AS MANY AS HALF OF THE 31 NDP SEATS IN COMMONS  
SHOULD ELECTIONS BE HELD THIS WINTER. AS LONG AS NDP  
SUPPORT FOR TRUDEAU'S GOVERNMENT CONTINUES FIRM,  
HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING THE CONSERVATIVES CAN DO  
ABOUT IT. THEIR FRUSTRATION IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT.  
SCHMIDT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENERGY, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, EXPORTS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, PRICES, TAXES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973OTTAWA02956  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731238/aaaabboz.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CA  
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